

CLAIMS

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1. A self-securing otologic prosthesis,
comprising:
^{elongated}
a shaft formed of biocompatible shape-memory
alloy,
^{one end of}
said shaft having a reversely-turned end
portion forming a bight ^{first} [as manufactured]
said bight ^{deformed} [being] capable of being opened for
receiving a first otologic structure and
^{upon application of heat}
of closing into gripping engagement with
said first otologic structure [in response
to heat], and
^{an opposite end}
fastening means on said shaft remote from said
bight for operatively engaging a second
otologic structure.

2. The self-securing otologic prosthesis
according to claim 1 including a flange on said
shaft providing a heat sink for enabling heat to be
transferred by conduction to said ^{first} bight after ~~(its)~~
engagement with said first otologic structure.

3. The self-securing otologic prosthesis
according to claim 1 wherein said shaft is ~~[elongate~~
~~and]~~ of small-diameter nickel-titanium metal alloy
wire.

4. The self-securing otologic prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein said fastening means includes a ~~piston~~ ^{enlarged cylindrical body}.

5. The self-securing otologic prosthesis according to claim 4 wherein said ~~piston~~ ^{cylindrical body} has a circular end portion and is of a biocompatible plastic.

6. The self-securing otologic prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein said fastener means is provided by a closed loop formed integral with said shaft.

7. The self-securing otologic prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein said fastening means includes ~~another~~ ^{a second} bight ~~of like construction to said first-mentioned bight but~~ lying in a plane transverse to the plane of said first ~~mentioned~~ bight.

8. The self-securing otologic prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein said shaft mounts a heat sink flange in a plane transverse to the plane of the ~~bight~~ ^{flange} for receiving electromagnetic radiation.

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9. The self-securing otologic prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein said first otologic structure is an incus and said second otologic structure is an oval window. 112

10. The self-securing otologic prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein said first otologic structure is an incus and said second otologic structure is a stapes. 112

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